

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-17, 19-23, and 26-39 are pending and at issue in the above-identified patent application. Claims 23, 26, and 27, which were allowed in the pursuant Office action, were not amended and remain in a condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 7-11 and 18-22 stand objected to because they were dependent on a rejected base claim (independent claims 1 and 15, respectively) but were identified as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim. As detailed in the above listing of the claims, claims 1-6, 8-17, and 19-23 have been rewritten to include the limitations of the allowable dependent claims. New claims 28-37 depend from the rewritten claims and are allowable for at least that reason. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in a condition for allowance.

Finally, independent claims 38 and 39 have been added herein and include many of the same elements of the claims that were identified as allowable. The applicants respectfully submit that new claims 38 and 39 are also in a condition for allowance.

10/809,119

Response to the Office action of May 12, 2006

Conclusion

Reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof are respectfully requested. If there is any matter that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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